

OPINION 1863

Sphaerocera Latreille, 1804 and *Borophaga* Enderlein, 1924 (Insecta, Diptera): conserved; *Musca subsultans* Linnaeus, 1767: specific name placed on the Official List

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Diptera; SPHAEROCERIDAE; PHORIDAE; *Sphaerocera*; *Borophaga*; *Musca subsultans*.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary powers the name *Borborus* Meigen, 1803 is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Sphaerocera* Latreille, 1804 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent monotypy by Latreille (1805) *Sphaerocera curvipes* Latreille, 1805;
 - (b) *Borophaga* Enderlein, 1924 (gender: feminine), type species by original designation *Phora flavimana* Meigen, 1830 (a junior subjective synonym of *Phora femorata* Meigen, 1830 by the first reviser action of Zetterstedt (1848)).
- (3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *curvipes* Latreille, 1805, as published in the binomen *Sphaerocera curvipes* (specific name of the type species of *Sphaerocera* Latreille, 1804);
 - (b) *femorata* Meigen, 1830, as published in the binomen *Phora femorata* (senior subjective synonym by the first reviser action of Zetterstedt (1848) of the specific name of *Phora flavimana* Meigen, 1830, the type species of *Borophaga* Enderlein, 1924);
 - (c) *subsultans* Linnaeus, 1767, as published in the binomen *Musca subsultans*.
- (5) The name *Borborus* Meigen, 1803, as suppressed in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.

History of Case 2907

An application for the conservation of the generic names *Sphaerocera* Latreille, 1804 and *Borophaga* Enderlein, 1924, and of the specific names of *Sphaerocera curvipes* Latreille, 1805 and *Phora flavimana* Meigen, 1830, was received from Dr Brian V. Brown (*Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.*) and Dr Curtis W. Sabrosky (*U.S. Department of Agriculture, clo Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.*) on 18 October 1993. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 51: 312–315 (December 1994). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

A comment from Dr R.H.L. Disney (*Cambridge University, Cambridge, U.K.*), published in BZN 52: 181–182 (June 1995), pointed out that the valid name for the type species of *Borophaga* Enderlein, 1924 (family PHORIDAE) is *B. femorata* (Meigen, 1830), a senior subjective synonym of *B. flavimana* (Meigen, 1830) by the first reviser

action of Zetterstedt (1848). It was noted on the voting paper that the specific name of *B. femorata*, rather than that of *B. flavimana*, would be placed on the Official List (Recommendation 67B of the Code) (cf. paras. 7(2)(b) and 7(3)(b) of the application); the nominal species *Phora flavimana* remains the type species of *Borophaga*.

Dr Disney also pointed out that *Musca subsultans* Linnaeus, 1767, which through misidentification had been treated as the valid name of the type species of *Borborus* Meigen, 1803 (family SPHAEROCERIDAE), is actually the species called *Borophaga okellyi* by Schmitz (1937) (family PHORIDAE). In the light of the comments there was no need to take action over the name *flavimana*.

Dr Disney supported the conservation of the generic name *Sphaerocera* Latreille, 1804 by suppressing the unused name *Borborus* Meigen, 1803 (para. 7(1)(a) of the application), but opposed the suppression of the specific name of *Musca subsultans*. He proposed (BZN 52: 182, para. 3) that the latter be retained for use (as *Borophaga subsultans*) in the PHORIDAE and be placed on the Official List (cf. para. 7(1)(b)).

A reply by Dr Brian Brown, one of the authors of the application, was published in BZN 52: 182–183 (June 1995); he defended usage of the name *Borophaga okellyi* and the proposed suppression of the name *subsultans*. A further response by Disney was published in BZN 52: 336–337 (December 1995); in this he reiterated that the name *Borophaga subsultans* was valid and should be used.

Both alternatives, suppression and placement on the Official Index of the specific name of *Musca subsultans* Linnaeus, 1767 (included in Proposal A), and its retention and placement on the Official List (Proposal B), were offered for voting. Proposal A was that of Brown & Sabrosky (BZN 51: 313–314); Proposal B was that of Disney (BZN 52: 182, para. 3). Both Proposals A and B included the suppression of *Borborus* Meigen, 1803 except for the purposes of homonymy, and amendments to paras. 7(2)(b) and 7(3)(b) (recognition of *Phora femorata* Meigen, 1830 as a senior synonym of *P. flavimana* and placement of *femorata* on the Official List).

Decision of the Commission

On 16 September 1996 the members of the Commission were invited to vote. At the close of the voting period on 16 December 1996 the votes were as follows:

Proposal A — 10: Bock, Cocks, Dupuis, Heppell, Kabata, Kraus, Mawatari, Papp, Savage and Song.

Proposal B — 15: Bouchet, Brothers, Cogger, Eschmeyer, Kerzhner, Lehtinen, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Patterson, Schuster and Štys.

Ride was on leave of absence.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

Borborus Meigen, 1803, *Magazin für Insektenkunde* (Illiger), 2: 276.

Borophaga Enderlein, 1924, *Entomologische Mitteilungen*, 8: 277.

curvipes, *Sphaerocera*, Latreille, 1805, *Histoire naturelle, générale et particulière des crustacés et des insectes*, vol. 14, p. 394.

femorata, *Phora*, Meigen, 1830, *Systematische Beschreibung der bekannten Europäischen Zweiflügeligen*, vol. 6, p. 213.

Sphaerocera Latreille, 1804, *Nouveau dictionnaire d'histoire naturelle*, vol. 24, p. 197.
subsultans, *Musca*, Linnaeus, 1767, *Systema Naturae*, Ed. 12, vol. 1, part 2, p. 993.

The following is the reference for the fixation of *Sphaerocera curvipes* Latreille, 1805 as the type species of the nominal genus *Sphaerocera* Latreille, 1804:

Latreille, P.A. 1805. *Histoire naturelle, générale et particulière des crustacés et des insectes*, vol. 14, p. 394.

The following is the reference for the first reviser selection of the precedence of *Phora femorata* over *P. flavimana*, both of Meigen (1803):

Zetterstedt, J.W. 1848. *Diptera Scandinaviae disposita et descripta*, p. 2886.